

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Fig. 1, with the amended Fig. 1. Fig. 1, as amended is fully supported by the original disclosure and introduces no new subject matter.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 9 and 19 contain patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 13, 20 have been amended, claim 9 has been cancelled and new claim 25 has been introduced. Claim 1 has been amended to introduce the limitation of objected to claim 9. The new claim 25 defines an invention including the limitation of claim 19 with original independent claim 13.

The Applicant's representative has amended the specification to remove the underlining of the titles and correct the typographical issues raised by the Examiner. Further, a new abstract is presented in order to address the objection to the abstract raised by the Examiner.

A Replacement Sheet for Fig. 1 has been submitted to address the Examiner's objection to the drawing. More specifically, feature number 17a has been introduced and feature number 16a has been removed. Withdrawal of the objection to the figure is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 15, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,802,824 to Gastebois. The Applicants respectfully traverse the §102 rejections. It is well settled that the Commissioner, through the Examiner, bears the initial duty of supplying the factual basis supporting a rejection of a patent application, including a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. See, In re Warner 154 USPQ 173, 177 (C.C.P.A 1967). Not only does a rejection founded under 35 U.S.C. § 102 "require[s] the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration" (See, W.L. Gore and Assocs. Inc. v. Garlock, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983)) but it further requires that "each and every element of the claimed invention, [must be] arranged as in the claim." See, Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). "The

identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the . . . claim.” Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

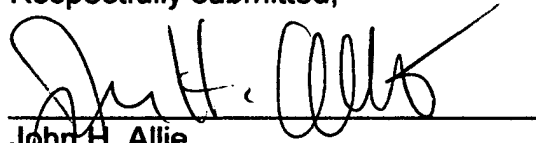
Independent claim 13, as amended, defines an invention where each of the blades is located between a pair of the blade attachment lugs and coupled to the wheel free of any additional radial retention member. In contrast the ‘824 reference discloses that “[a] wedge 8 is inserted between the bottom face of the root of each blade and the bottom of the corresponding socket 4 of the disc 2. In co-operation with the wedges 6a and 7a, the wedge 8 serves to lock the blade 3b in the radial direction.” ‘824 Patent, Col. 3, L. 64-68. The invention of claim 13 anchors the blades in the radial direction without any additional radial retention member and therefore the ‘824 Patent’s disclosure of the utilization of a member such as wedge 8 as being a necessary part of the structure to lock the blade in the radial direction fails to disclose the invention of claim 13. Withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5-8, 10, 14, 16, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being applicable over Gastebois in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,801,222 to Violette. Claim 20, as amended, defines an invention wherein each of the blades is connected to the disk by a pair of said blade attachment lugs and free of any other radial retention member. As discussed above the ‘824 reference discloses, teaches and suggests that “[a] wedge 8 is inserted between the bottom face of the root of each blade and the bottom of the corresponding socket 4 of the disc 2. In co-operation with the wedges 6a and 7a, the wedge 8 serves to lock the blade 3b in the radial direction.” ‘824 Patent, Col. 3, L. 64-68. The invention of claim 20 anchors the blades in the radial direction without any other radial retention member. One of the teachings of the ‘824 Patent is to utilize an additional member, such as wedge 8, to contribute to the radial retention of the blade. The combination of references fails to teach or suggest each of the limitations of claim 20. Withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-12, 14-19 and 21-23 are believed at least allowable as they depend from an independent claim that is believed allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants believe that all claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss any unresolved matters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Allie", is written over a horizontal line.

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